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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/531,562	10/03/2005	David F. Sim	920446-99380	3540
23644	7590	09/14/2007		
BARNES & THORNBURG LLP			EXAMINER	
P.O. BOX 2786			YACOB, SISAY	
CHICAGO, IL 60690-2786				
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2612	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			09/14/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/531,562

Applicant(s)

SIM ET AL.

Examiner

Sisay Yacob

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-8,12,13 and 15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,9-11 and 14 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 October 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The application of Sim et al., "Mud pulse landing assembly for use in directional drilling" filed on October 03, 2005 been examined.

Claims 1- 15 are pending.

Claim Objections

1. Claim 15 is objected to because of the following informalities: a missing period (".") at the end of the claim.
2. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3 Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by German Patent of Winnacker (DE 196 27 719 A).

4 As to claim 1, Winnacker discloses a mud pulse assembly for producing mud pulses for communicating during directional drilling data telemetry, the improvement comprising: a removable mud pulse generator for positioning in a landing sub body, said removable mud pulse generator having an outlet end, and a retainer for releasably engaging said removable mud pulse generator in said landing sub body, said retainer engaging said mud pulse generator at or upstream of said outlet end, said retainer being remotely operable to release said removable mud pulse generator from said mud pulse assembly (Col. 1, lines 3-31; Col. 4, lines 50-61; Col. 7, Claim 1; Figures 1-3).

5 As to claim 2, Winnacker discloses a retainer comprises at least one detent for retention of said removable mud pulse generator, and a coupler for preventing rotation of said removable mud pulse generator relative to said landing sub body, said removable mud pulse generator being adapted to receive said detent and engage said coupler (Col. 4, lines 50-61; figures 1-3).

6 As to claim 4, Winnacker discloses a coupler comprises at least one spline on at least a portion of adjacent surfaces of said removable mud pulse generator and said landing sub body (Col. 5, line 64 - Col. 6, line 4; Item 29 of figure 1)

7 As to claim 5, Winnacker discloses a coupler comprises non-circular keyed mating surfaces (Col. 6, lines 7-13; Item 36 of figure 1).

8 As to claims 6-8, Winnacker discloses a retainer maintains said removable mud pulse generator in both a fixed spatial and fixed rotational position relative to said landing sub body, said retainer comprises at least one detent, said at least one detent being adapted with a means for locking said removable mud pulse generator in fixed rotational position relative to said landing sub body, and said means for locking comprises at least one longitudinal spline, said spline being received by a corresponding spline on said removable mud pulse generator (Col. 4, lines 50-61; Col. 6, lines 13-37; Figures 1-3).

9 As to claim 15, the mud pulse landing assembly of claim 1, wherein said removable mud pulse generator can be released and moved in either the upward or downward direction relative to the retainer (Col. 1, lines 3-31).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10 The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious

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at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11 The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

12 Claims 12 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over German Patent of Winnacker (DE 196 27 719 A) in view of the U.S. Patent of Jeter (4,120,097).

13 As to claim 12, Winnacker a removable mud pulse generator is of modular design, said removable mud pulse generator comprising a compact muleshoe, an MWD tool in a spaced-apart relationship from said compact muleshoe, and at least one leg maintaining said muleshoe body in a fixed position relative to said muleshoe body, said compact muleshoe containing a mud pulse orifice, said MWD tool containing a piston actuator and piston, and the muleshoe body and said at least one leg is a unitary structure.

Jeter discloses a mud pulse generator comprising a compact muleshoe, an MWD tool in a spaced-apart relationship from said compact muleshoe, and at least one leg maintaining said muleshoe body in a fixed position relative to said muleshoe body, said compact muleshoe containing a mud pulse orifice, said MWD tool containing a piston actuator and piston, and the muleshoe body and said at least one leg is a unitary structure (Col. 4, lines 12-59; Col. 6, lines 9-30; Figures 1-9).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a mud pulse generator of Jeter, because they both are directed to solving similar problem in a downhole environment, which deals with an MWD tool incorporating an apparatus, system and method of mud pulse telemetry.

Claim Objections

14 Claims 3, 9-11 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

15 Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sisay Yacob whose telephone number is (571) 272-

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8562. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

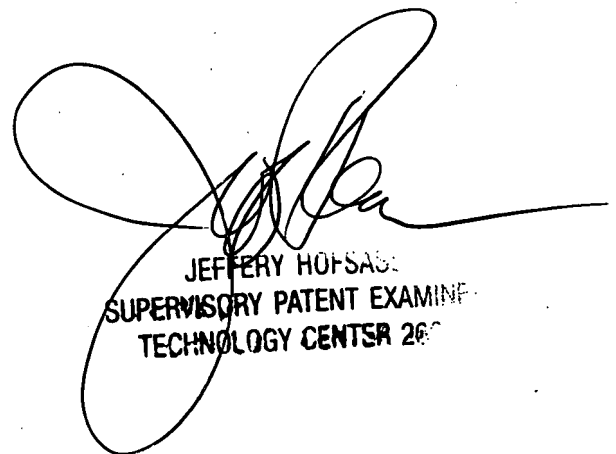
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffery A. Hofsass can be reached on (571) 272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Sisay Yacob

9/4/2007

S-Y.



JEFFERY HOFSSA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2612